Conditions for Life Saving Drug

3380. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to relax the conditions for life saving drugs for cancer and AIDS in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) Customs Duty Execution certificates are issued for life saving drugs only to individual patients recommended by the treating physicians. The Drugs Controller (India) in consultation with experts gives maximum priority on registration of new anti-cancer and new anti-AIDS drugs and such applications are cleared in minimum time for approvals under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder.

[Translation]

Electronics and Information Technology Industry

3381. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the electronics and information technology industry is likely to be accorded the status of infrastructural industry;

(b) whether the working group of the Ninth Five Year Plan has given its recommendations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The Working Group on Electronics Industry set up for IX Plan by the Planning Commission has, inter-alia, recommended that the Electronics and Information Technology industry should be classified as a basic growth 'infrastructure' industry.

(d) Action on the recommendation of the Working Group has been initiated.

Funds for Development of Hilly Areas

3382. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have decided to provide funds to nine hilly districts (Uttranchal) of Uttar Pradesh at par with Himachal Pradesh for the development of hilly area;

(b) whether Planning Commission has allocated the funds at par with Himachal Pradesh for the development of Uttranchal during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (d) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for this purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States in this regard through the modified Gadgil formula for distribution of Central Assistance and Special Area Programmes. The Hill districts of Uttar Pradesh receive Special Central Assistance under Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) while Himachal Pradesh is a Special Category state and is given suitable weightage in the distribution of Central Assistance. The finalisation of sectoral strategies and allocation for the Ninth Five Year Plan is currently underway in Planning Commission. However, efforts have been made in past to increase the assistance for hill areas of Uttar Pradesh on the basis of requests received from State Government and other quarters. An additional amount of Rs. 7.93 crore as Special Central Assistance has been made available to Uttar Pradesh for hill regions for each year from 1994-95 to 1996-97. Further, during 1995-96, additional assistance of Rs. 10 crore was made available for irrigation facilities in the hill areas of U.P. and an amount of Rs. 5 crore was made available for improvement of Rishikesh-Badrinath road.

Uranium Mining

3383. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of radio-activity arosen due to uranium mining in Jaduguda of eastern Singhbhum district of Bihar;

(b) whether the local residents/tribals are being affected by eye disease, handicappedness of children and cancer as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the norms laid down for radio activity in the said mining work are being followed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The standards of safety in the mining and milling of uranium in Jaduguda